

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

1 All threshold data applied to processing is read into a
register so that threshold data read from threshold matrix memory
can be recycled until the end of a scanning line for processing,
5 and is selectively output to a plurality of comparison means for
executing parallel comparison processing. The threshold data
set in the register is shifted in order for repetitive use. The
threshold data of the next scanning line is read into the register
during the comparison processing, and upon completion of
10 processing of one scanning line, comparison processing on the next
scanning line is executed as pipeline processing. Threshold data
read from the memory needs to be executed only once for each
scanning line for processing, and threshold data can also be read
during halftone data generation of the preceding line.

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